SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY
APRIL 19, 2020

“...believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name. “

(John 20:31)

Fr. Peter Dung Duc Ngo, Pastor
Deacon Loc Nguyen

Office Hours
Monday – Friday: 9:00AM - 1:00PM

Masses
Saturday Vigil: 5:00PM (English)
7:00PM (Spanish)
Sunday: 8:00AM, 10:00AM, 12:00 Noon
4:00PM (Vietnamese)
Weekdays: Mon-Fri. 7:30AM, Sat. 8:00AM
First Friday: 7:30PM

Confessions
Saturday 3:30PM to 4:30PM or by appointment

Baptisms
Pre-Baptism classes for parents and godparents held every second Tuesday of the month. Contact the parish office.
* Spanish Classes, contact Hilda Avelar at 925-642-3058.
* Vietnamese baptisms, contact Fr. Peter Dung D. Ngo at the parish office.

Marriage
Contact the parish office at least six months in advance.

Rene Asuncion, Director of Rel. Ed.
Tel:(925) 458-4574-Website: olqwre.olqw.org
Email:director@olqwre.olqw.org

• Religious Education
RCIA Adults seeking Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, or membership in the Catholic Church.

• St. Vincent de Paul
Food pantry opens Mondays 9:30AM - 11AM in the Parish hall
Monday, April 20
7:30 am  Agnes Phan

Tuesday, April 21
7:30 am  Louise Salazar

Wednesday, April 22
7:30 am  E. Nacional

Thursday, April 23
7:30 am  Edmund & Allen Paule

Friday, April 24
7:30 am  Evelyn Valero-Alava

Saturday, April 25
8:00 am  Anna Tran Hang & Paul Hoang Pham
5:00 pm  Reschedule
7:00 pm (SP)  Reschedule

Sunday, April 26
8:00 am  Jose Mendoza Rosauro
10:00 am  Michael Enriquez
12:00 pm  Federico Gatmaitan
4:00 pm (VN)

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS & CONTACTS
Filipino Association: Nerissa Riray, President (nriray@comcast.net)
Hispanic Association  Antonio Renteria, President (antoniorenteria201@yahoo.com)
Contacto en Español: Gladys Giron 925-334-9873
Columbiettes  Cara Wahl, Vice President (lavignetoo@comcast.net)
Knights of Columbus  Andrew Trias (Andrew.trias@gmail.com)
Regina Mundi Guild  Alicia Belza, President 925-261-0283
St. Vincent de Paul Society: Esther Tilton, President  SVDPOLQW@gmail.com
Legion of Mary: Rick Belza (925-261-0283)
Vietnamese Association: Hiep David Vu, President (Davidvu207@gmail.com)

GOSPEL READING
IN 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.” Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

PRAY FOR THE SICK
Kathy Nebel, Sylvia Ho, Conception Huezo, Ray & Alice Conner, Connie Trias, Claire Luna-Fernandez, Mario & Emma Dolor, Bertha Baldauf, Amy Kueck, Jovita Domingo, Carol Wagner, Julian Martinez, Virginia Cabaddu, Nena Davi, Danny Muly, Michelle McLaughlin, Miguel Ortiz, victims of the Corona Virus and all those in the Parish who are sick, and all those listed in the Book of Intention.

If you would like a name added to the prayer list, please call the rectory 458-4718.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE
Amounts will be posted in a later date.

Thank you for your contribution support to sustain the ministries & ongoing needs of our parish.

Please make all checks payable to either “OLQW” or Our Lady Queen of the World for both first and second collections. Also please put your envelope number on the Memo line.
The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus’ Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognized though. In John’s Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke’s Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn’t recognize Jesus unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion.

From readings such as today’s Gospel, we also see that in his resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas’s doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus’ appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen him crucified and buried. Thomas’s human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen.

Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are “blessed” because we believe without having seen.
Father Peter will be offering Outdoor Confessions on Saturdays from 4:00 pm at the Divine Mercy Statue.

Our Sunday Mass will be Live Stream on our Facebook Page at 10:00 am every Sunday until further notice.

The shelter-in-place order has been extended to April 30th.

Please keep all those in the frontlines of this pandemic in your prayers.

The Church will remain open during these difficult times to provide a place of prayer and solace. All public Masses and Church activities are suspended until further notice.

SOLAR SYSTEM
The Maintenance Fund 2nd collection will be for the Solar System. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Food Drive
We will maintain a donation barrel for non-perishable foods in the church foyer; please be generous. Our groups of volunteers are here every Monday, and they always need groceries to help the needy in our community. The demand has been much greater!

Online Masses and Other Liturgical Resources

Daily Scripture readings from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops in English and Español

Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in Italian (original sound) - https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope-francis/mass-casa-santa-marta.html

Please also check if your local parish is livestreaming or posting videos of Mass.

There are several entities providing Mass on the internet. Check the websites regarding whether the Mass is livestreamed or available on demand.

Daily Mass (including Sunday)
Archdiocese of Boston CatholicTV - http://www.catholictv.org/masses/catholictv-mass
Archdiocese of New Orleans - https://thedailymass.com/mass/
EWTN - http://ewtn.com
Relevant Radio (audio only) - http://relevantradio.com/

Sunday Mass
Catholic Extension Society -- https://www.catholicextension.org/stories/sunday-catholic-mass-online

CCD Students Rice Bowls:
Please place them into the box at the entrance of the Church.

Offertory Envelopes
Please drop your Sunday Envelopes in the wooden box in front entrance of the Church or the rectory mail box or mail it to the Church.
Thank you for your prayers and gifts!

Received with Christ and His Church? You and your family, if He has been generous to you, will receive the many gifts he has given to us.

By embracing Rebuild My Church, you are contributing greatly to building up the Kingdom of God here in the East Bay. We are asked to pray for our fellow parishioners, clergy, leadership, and those served by the ministries offered by the Church, and for the success of the 2020 Bishop’s Appeal. All gifts to the Appeal are equally important. As stewards of our faith we are asked to make a sacrificial, proportionate and thoughtful gift. Those who are blessed with more are challenged to give more, but everyone is asked to respond.

Imagine what can be done in the name of our local faith community if every parishioner were inspired by Rebuild My Church and participated in our annual Bishop’s Appeal. While parishes rely on the financial support of parishioners through weekly offertory collections, the diocese also relies on these same parishioners to make possible the many services it provides to literally thousands of individuals each year.

The Bishop’s Appeal provides funds to help offset some of the following programmatic expenses:

- Parishes & Schools in Need
- Clergy Formation & Support
- Religious Education & Faith Formation
- Pastoral Ministries & Services
- Priest Retirement & Care

Jesus Christ promised us at His Ascension: "I will be with you all days until the end of the ages." If Christ has helped you and your family, if He has been generous to you, will you consider sharing some of the blessings you have received with Christ and His Church?

Thank you for your prayers and gifts!

Our Lady Queen of the World’s 2020 goal is $19,600.

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BARBER:

I know that my Redeemer lives. (Job 19:25).

I’ve been holding onto that verse these past weeks. When I feel afraid, it gives me comfort and strength. By saying my Redeemer lives, it means that no matter what happens to us or our country in these weeks, Christ has risen. He overcomes all pain, suffering and uncertainty. He doesn’t take it away, but He -- and all those who are His disciples -- will overcome.

What is the worst that can happen to us during this time? We could catch coronavirus and die. But is death the end? Not for those who believe in Christ and are baptized. I remember back to 1985, TWA Flight 847 was hijacked in Athens by terrorists. There were some U.S. soldiers and sailors among the passengers. They were beaten, and one of them, sailor Robert Stethem, was shot in the head, and his body dumped out of the plane onto the tarmac. A few weeks later at his funeral in the US, his brother, also a sailor, got up to speak. For as long as I live, I will never forget his words: “I know that if my brother were here today, he would want to say one thing. ‘That no matter what happens, God reigns.’” Although that sailor was mourning the loss of his brother, his faith -- and his brother’s faith -- was paramount.

I know that my Redeemer lives.

The next-worst thing that can happen to us in this crisis is losing our job. Then you can’t pay the rent, feed your family, pay your bills, etc. Even with unemployment insurance, there will be significant hardship. I’ve seen this situation handled in two basic ways. One, a person goes into a depression, resulting in inaction. I had a Commanding Officer in the Navy once. He had been a submarine captain, and then was C.O. of the Navy base where I was serving. The Navy decided it had too many senior officers, and thinned the ranks. Through no fault of his own, he was involuntarily retired. With full pension and benefits. He was in his early 50s. Rather than look for a job, he sat home and sulked. His wife went to work as a school librarian to help pay the bills. She was frustrated. He felt worthless, even though he had a distinguished Navy career. And his faith was not very strong. No prayer.

Another case. A young man recently graduated with a good business degree. Put in applications at all the usual accounting firms. Presented well on his interviews. Yet no job offers. Undeterred, he kept applying. Kept interviewing. Still no offers. Yet he didn’t give up. Went to daily Mass. Prayed that God would open a door for him. Trusted. Finally, being hungry and not having much money, he decided to have his lunch at a hospital cafeteria. He knew the food would be good and cheap. While dining, he struck up a conversation with a nurse at the table and revealed his situation. She told him that she didn’t know if the hospital needed another accountant, but they were looking to hire someone to work with mothers who were drug addicts and their newborn children. The fellow interviewed and was hired on the spot. Weeks later he said he felt so much more fulfilled helping take care of ‘crack babies’ than if he were working in a business office. He trusted, and the Lord put him in the right place.

I know that my Redeemer lives.

Being a Christian does not mean we will have a life devoid of suffering. But it does mean that the Lord’s promises to us will be fulfilled. And the main promise is that He has overcome suffering and death. And He will lead all those who are joined to Him through baptism and the Eucharist to a Resurrection from the dead. And smaller resurrections here, during our earthly life.

I know that my Redeemer lives. And He will never let you down.
O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.
The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

- Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. Please consult with your healthcare provider about additional steps you may be able to take to protect yourself.

- Contra Costa Health Services does not recommend wearing a mask to avoid becoming infected with a respiratory disease. Masks can be effective when worn by someone who is already sick to prevent the spread of their disease.

Take Steps to Protect Yourself

Clean Your Hands Often
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Take Steps to Protect Others

Stay home if you're sick
- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care. Learn what to do if you are sick.

Cover coughs and sneezes
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

If you are sick, wear a facemask
- If you are sick: You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider’s office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room. Learn what to do if you are sick.
- If you are NOT sick: You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.

Clean and disinfect
- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.